

# THE BUILDINGS OF MOREFA BORTH

- the Marsh Harbour

Ceredigion



That part of Borth Village on a pebble bank with the sea on one side and the Cors Fochno marsh some reclaimed and the railway on the other. In the distance is the River Dyfi. Photograph Michael Lewis

Photographs and History by BERYL LEWIS

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# ERWYD HOUSE

Formerly White Lion Place. One of the homes at the White Lion Inn and already there in 1843. Home of Richard Jenkins, a ship's carpenter and later members of the Jenkins family until 1911, and then by a Morgan and Evans family.



This house joins the rear of Resolute. It is a gabled house, at right angles to the High Street, of two storeys, double fronted which opens directly on to White Lion Lane. The lower wall facing the lane is rendered, and the top section with three windows has wooden cladding which extends behind the gable of the end wall to give a good height to its upper floor. The rendered wall is plain and the windows and front door are modern. The stonework suggests the front of this house may have been re-clad

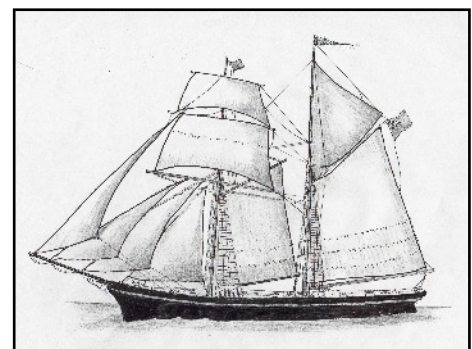


at some time. The rear wall is rubble stone, and whitewashed, with many rounded stones from the beach. In it is one small window of four lights with thin glazing bars. This may have survived from the pre-1845 home for Richard Jenkins and his wife.

*The photographs of Erwyd were taken in 2015. It has obviously been developed from a less tall home. The high small window in the gable end would have lit the former loft floor of the early house.*



*BELOW The James family into which Richard Jenkins married not only had the Inn but were master mariners and ship owners. They had two schooners like the one below and could afford to build houses for themselves, their family and to rent out.*

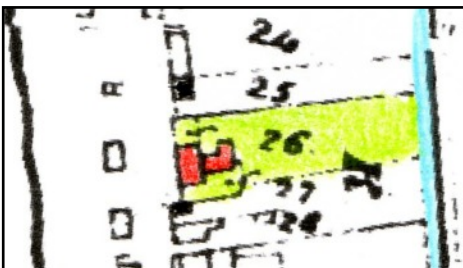




*ABOVE The rear of Erwyd and its small garden in 2015. This is White Lion Lane looking towards the High Street. The rear wall of Erwyd has many rounded beach stones. Adjoining the rear wall is a drive wide enough for car parking. This gives access to a building mostly in Mayfield's garden. There are a few small shrubs alongside it. Beyond is Resolute's small garden enclosed in a low rubble stone wall on two sides partly whitewashed, and by a wooden rail fencing on the other two sides. There is a paved area inside.*

The ground for this house was enclosed in 1824 from the pebble embankment thrown up by the sea and called 'waste' because it was no good for farming. It extended to a brook of fresh water. The road had been there for centuries and was a turnpike road by the 1770s. It led to a ferry from Ynyslas to Aberdovey which was a quick way to North Wales.

By 1834 there was an Inn built on the ground, the White Lion. It was quite a large building. Enoch James its owner provided a home for his daughter Mary and her husband Richard Jenkins, a ship's carpenter in the Navy born in Aberystwyth about 1825. As a lad he had sung in the choir of the old St Michael's Church. He married Mary James in 1834. In 1856 Enoch in his Will wrote that that Richard and Mary Jenkins were living in a house that adjoined his own.

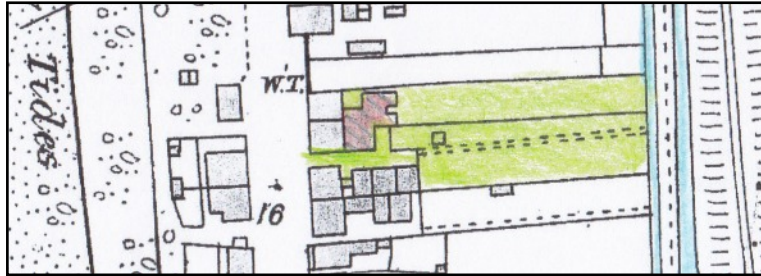


*LEFT The White Lion Inn buildings in 1848 coloured red. Enoch James's ground is green. In black are the two older cottages that were on either side. The surveyor who drew this Map shows a division between the street side building - the Inn and Resolute - and a section at the back, eventually Erwyd. (A detail from the Tithe Apportionments Map of Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township).*

In the 1851 Census the house by the Inn was empty. In the 1861 Census again the home by the Inn was empty. In the 1871 Census the Jenkins family were Richard Jenkins aged 46, born about 1833 in Aberystwyth, and a ship's carpenter and his wife Mary (nee James) also 46. The Census listed them at White Lion Cottage. It was being let to holiday visitors. At the end of

August 'Captain' Jenkins was acting as their landlord. (Cambrian News). Captain James was home again by September 15<sup>th</sup>. Richard was a bachelor, and Mary was acting as housekeeper.

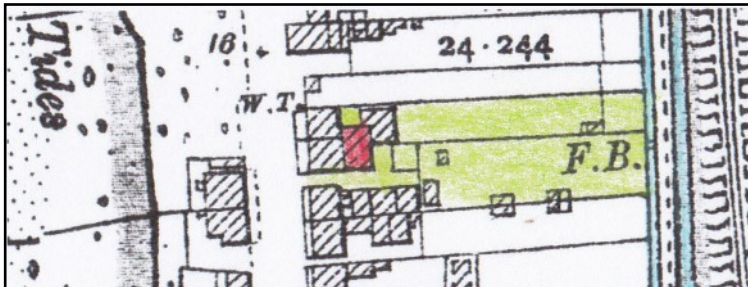
At the 1881 Census the Jenkins's were at home in the house then called Number One White Lion Lane, now Erwyd. Their daughter Mary had wed a lead miner called Thomas Morgan, born about 1847 in Ponterwyd.



*LEFT On the 25 inch map of 1888 surveyed in 1886 the surveyor had some doubt where the house ended. It is marked with stripes and a wall shut it off from the garden leading down to the brook (detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888. Cardiganshire NW III.10)*

At the 1891 Census Richard Jenkins was still working as a ship's carpenter His wife Mary had died. Also in the house was retired master mariner Richard James, brother in law to Mr Jenkins, and aged 76, retired from the sea. The Jenkins's were looking after him. Richard James died in December 1894, and he bequeathed all his property and possessions to Richard Jenkins and his daughter Mary Morgan and then her daughter.

At the 1901 Census Thomas and Mary Morgan were in the house with their daughter Jane, a nineteen year old dressmaker. At that time it was still called Number 1 White Lion Place.



*LEFT By the map of 1905 the house is clearly drawn. As today there was an entrance to a building in the back garden of Mayfield, and an enclosed garden for Erwyd.*

In a valuation for a tax in 1910, planned by not levied, the house had its name Erwyd. It was valued at £85 the same as Resolute next door. A strip of garden leading to the ditch - formerly a brook, belonged with this house. The owner and occupier was Richard Jenkins now an elderly man of 85 and a 'retired' mariner, (ship's carpenter). (Ceredigion Archives C/DV/18). He had had three children, one of whom had died. and his daughter Mary Morgan, born in Borth in 1850 by then a widow was living with him. Richard Jenkins was a sexton at Borth's St Matthew's Church, and sang in the choir. He had helped to lay the first Telegraph from Welshpool to Aberystwyth, and helped with the wooden saddleback groynes for the beach that had been designed by John Beynon of Efelwen in 1877.

His daughter Mary Morgan's husband Thomas Morgan had died on April 1 1906 aged 59. Although he was lead miner in 1881 he had become railway plate layer by 1891. (Census). Mary died on April 28 1911 aged 61. Their gravestone at Llandre is in Welsh. Richard Jenkins out lived his children and was buried at Llandre on January 1<sup>st</sup>. 1913. His obituary was in the Cambrian News.

In May 1924 Mrs Jane Evans was at Erwyd, she was the cousin of J. James Morgan. (Cambrian News)

In 1925 the Rates were paid by Thomas Evans, he was the owner, and it was listed as a cottage and garden. Thomas Evans died in September 23rd 1939 aged 71. His wife Jane died on 8 May 1940 aged 59. (Ceredigion Archives)

In 1945 with a vote for the house was Sybil I. K. Gibbons (Electoral Register Ceredigion Archives).

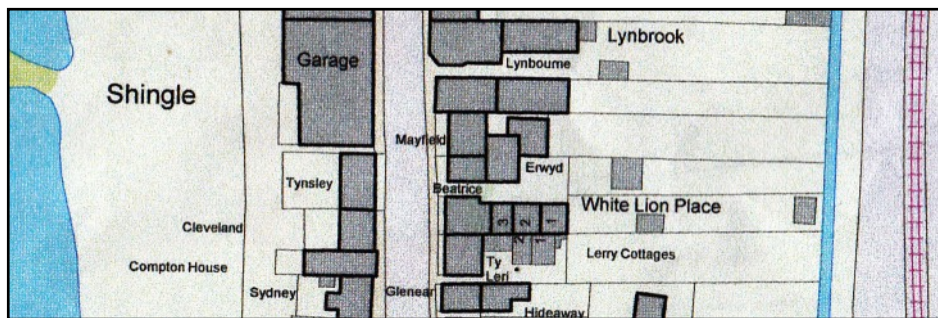
By 1949 Erwyd was owned with Resolute. The Rates were paid for Erwyd by Richard O. Jones of Resolute. (Ceredigion Archives). About 1950 Mrs Jones of Resolute was offering furnished accommodation in Erwyd, with two bedrooms and one sitting room. (Borth Guide Book, Aberystwyth Public Library)

Mr Jones paid the rates in 1957.

Kathleen M. Walker paid the rates in 1963. She owned the shop at Resolute next door too.

Sometime after 1968 a Mrs Matthews was offering furnished accommodation at Erwyd for six persons. There was a telephone, Borth 453, and parking. (Handbook and Guide to Borth. Private Collection). The Matthew's family had a shop at Resolute next door.

The house by 1975 was as we see it today, partly in the garden of Mayfield and part of its Annexe (Historic Maps On-line).



*ABOVE A detail from a modern Council Map which clearly shows the cluster of buildings - including White Lion Place on Enoch James's land (Map courtesy of Councillor Ray Quant).*

The author would like to thank Mr John Ellis for his help with the James family and their property.

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**Houses of Borth** consists of over 350 histories of individual buildings, lavishly illustrated with photographs, maps and documents. All the files are available from our website: <https://www.archifdy-eredigion.org.uk/tairborth.php>

We would like to thank Beryl for her kindness in letting us share her work with the widest possible audience.

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